

CLAIMS

What I claim is:

1. A condiment dispenser comprising:
a housing defining an interior portion; and
an injection nozzle defining an interior passage, said injection nozzle being: (A) in liquid communication with said interior portion of said housing; and (B) adapted to facilitate the transfer of condiment from said interior portion of said housing into an interior portion of a food item.
2. The condiment dispenser of Claim 1, wherein said injection nozzle is adapted to pierce an exterior surface of said food item and to thereby facilitate the transfer of condiment from said housing into said interior portion of said food item.
3. The condiment dispenser of Claim 2, wherein said injection nozzle is configured so that when said injection nozzle pierces said exterior surface of said food item, said injection nozzle makes a hole in said food item that is dimensioned to allow condiment to flow into said food item through said injection nozzle
4. The condiment dispenser of Claim 3, wherein said injection nozzle is configured so that said hole in said food item is dimensioned to substantially restrict said condiment from flowing out of said interior of said food item through said hole.
5. The condiment dispenser of Claim 3, wherein said hole in said food item is dimensioned to substantially prevent said condiment from flowing from out of said interior portion of said food item through said hole.
6. The condiment dispenser of Claim 3, wherein a maximum width of said hole in said food item is less than 0.2 inches.

7. The condiment dispenser of Claim 3, wherein a maximum width of said hole in said food item is less than 0.15 inches.

8. The condiment dispenser of Claim 3, wherein a maximum width of said hole in said food item is less than 0.1 inches.

9. The condiment dispenser of Claim 3, wherein a maximum width of said hole in said food item is less than 0.05 inches.

10. The condiment dispenser of Claim 3, wherein said hole in said food item is substantially circular and wherein a maximum width of said hole is less than 0.2 inches.

11. The condiment dispenser of Claim 10, wherein a maximum width of said hole in said food item is less than 0.15 inches.

12. The condiment dispenser of Claim 10, wherein a maximum width of said hole in said food item is less than 0.1 inches.

13. The condiment dispenser of Claim 10, wherein a maximum width of said hole in said food item is less than 0.05 inches.

14. The condiment dispenser of Claim 1, wherein said injection nozzle is adapted to pierce an exterior surface of said food item and thereby facilitate the insertion of an outlet end of said injection nozzle into said interior portion of said food item.

15. The condiment dispenser of Claim 1, wherein said injection nozzle is an injection needle.

16. The condiment dispenser of Claim 1, wherein:
said injection nozzle is adapted to pierce an exterior surface of said food item and to allow a portion of said injection nozzle to extend into said interior portion of said food item; and
a maximum width of said portion of said injection nozzle that extends into said interior portion of said food item is less than 0.2 inches.
17. The condiment dispenser of Claim 16, wherein a maximum width of said portion of said injection nozzle that extends into said interior portion of said food item is less than 0.1 inches.
18. The condiment dispenser of Claim 1, wherein said injection nozzle is substantially sharply pointed.
19. The condiment dispenser of Claim 1, wherein said injection nozzle is substantially rigid.
20. The condiment dispenser of Claim 19, wherein said housing is comprised of a flexible material.
21. The condiment dispenser of Claim 1, wherein said injection nozzle is elongate.
22. The condiment dispenser of Claim 1, wherein said food item is a French fry.
23. The condiment dispenser of Claim 22, wherein said condiment is ketchup.
24. The condiment dispenser of Claim 22, wherein said condiment is cheese sauce.

25. The condiment dispenser of Claim 1, wherein said food item is a French toast stick.

26. The condiment dispenser of Claim 25, wherein said condiment is syrup.

27. The condiment dispenser of Claim 1, wherein said condiment dispenser is configured for pre-heating said condiment before said condiment is transferred from said interior portion of said housing into said interior portion of said food item.

28. The condiment dispenser of Claim 1, wherein said injection nozzle is adapted to facilitate the injection of a condiment into said interior portion of said food item without leaving a significant amount of condiment on an exterior surface of said food item.

29. The condiment dispenser of Claim 1, wherein said condiment dispenser is a condiment packet and said housing comprises a pocket of flexible material.

30. The condiment dispenser of Claim 29, wherein said housing is substantially rectangular.

31. The condiment dispenser of Claim 1, wherein said condiment dispenser is pre-filled with a condiment and sealed to maintain the condiment in said housing before said condiment is dispensed from said condiment dispenser.

32. The condiment dispenser of Claim 1, wherein said interior portion of said housing is configured to hold at least one pint of condiment.

33. The condiment dispenser of Claim 1, wherein:
said injection nozzle is a first injection nozzle; and
said condiment dispenser further comprises a second injection nozzle, said second injection nozzle being adapted to facilitate the transfer of condiment from said interior portion of said housing into said interior portion of said food item.

34. The condiment dispenser of Claim 33, wherein:
said first injection nozzle is adapted to pierce said food item a first time to facilitate a first transfer of condiment from said interior portion of said housing to said interior portion of said food item; and
said second injection nozzle is adapted to pierce said food item a second time to facilitate a second transfer of condiment from said interior portion of said housing to said interior portion of said food item.

35. The condiment dispenser of Claim 34, wherein said condiment dispenser is configured so that said first and second transfers of condiment occur at substantially the same time.

36. The condiment dispenser of Claim 34, wherein said condiment dispenser is configured so that said first and second transfers of condiment occur at different times.

37. The condiment dispenser of Claim 33, wherein:

said food item is a first food item;

said first injection nozzle is adapted to pierce said first food item to facilitate a first transfer of condiment, said first transfer of condiment being a transfer of condiment from said interior portion of said housing to said interior portion of said first food item; and

said second injection nozzle is adapted to pierce a second food item to facilitate a second transfer of condiment, said second transfer of condiment being a transfer of condiment from said interior portion of said housing to said interior portion of said second food item.

38. The condiment dispenser of Claim 37, wherein said condiment dispenser is configured so that said first and second transfers of condiment occur at substantially the same time.

39. The condiment dispenser of Claim 37, wherein said condiment dispenser is configured so that said first and second transfers of condiment occur at different times.

40. The condiment dispenser of Claim 1, wherein said condiment dispenser is adapted so that a user may use said condiment dispenser to inject condiment into a food item by inserting an outlet end of said injection nozzle into said interior portion of said food item and then squeezing said housing to force condiment from said interior portion of said housing, through said injection nozzle, and into said interior portion of said food item.

41. The condiment dispenser of Claim 40, wherein said injection nozzle is adapted to allow a user to pierce an exterior surface of said food item and thereby facilitate the insertion of said outlet end of said injection nozzle into said interior portion of said food item.

42. The condiment dispenser of Claim 1, wherein said condiment dispenser is configured for injecting condiment into said food item substantially immediately after said food item has been cooked.

43. The condiment dispenser of Claim 42, wherein said condiment dispenser is configured for injecting condiment into said food item substantially immediately after said food item has been deep fried.

44. The condiment dispenser of Claim 42, wherein said condiment dispenser is configured for injecting condiment into said food item while said food item is still warm from being cooked.

45. The condiment dispenser of Claim 1, wherein said condiment dispenser is configured for injecting said condiment into said interior portion of said food item until said food item is at least 5% filled with said condiment.

46. The condiment dispenser of Claim 1, wherein said condiment dispenser is configured for injecting said condiment into said interior portion of said food item until said food item is at least 10% filled with said condiment.

47. The condiment dispenser of Claim 1, wherein said condiment dispenser is configured for injecting said condiment into said interior portion of said food item until said food item is at least 15% filled with said condiment.

48. The condiment dispenser of Claim 1, wherein said condiment dispenser is configured for injecting said condiment into said interior portion of said food item until said food item is at least 20% filled with said condiment.

49. A condiment dispenser comprising:
a housing defining an interior portion; and
an injection nozzle defining an interior passage, said injection nozzle being: (A) in liquid communication with said interior portion of said housing; and (B) adapted to facilitate the transfer of condiment from said interior portion of said housing into an interior portion of a French fry.

50. The condiment dispenser of Claim 49, wherein said injection nozzle is configured to pierce an exterior surface of said French fry and to thereby facilitate the transfer of condiment from interior portion of said housing into said interior portion of said French fry.

51. The condiment dispenser of Claim 50, wherein said injection nozzle is configured so that when said injection nozzle pierces said exterior surface of said French fry, said injection nozzle makes a hole in said French fry that is dimensioned to allow condiment to flow into said interior portion of said French fry through said injection nozzle.

52. The condiment dispenser of Claim 51, wherein said hole in said French fry is dimensioned to substantially restrict said condiment from flowing out of said interior portion of said French fry.

53. The condiment dispenser of Claim 52, wherein a maximum width of said hole in said French fry is less than 0.2 inches.

54. The condiment dispenser of Claim 51, wherein a maximum width of said hole in said French fry is less than 0.1 inches.

55. The condiment dispenser of Claim 51, wherein a maximum width of said hole in said French fry is less than 0.05 inches.

56. The condiment dispenser of Claim 49, wherein said injection nozzle is adapted to pierce an exterior surface of said French fry and thereby facilitate the insertion of an outlet end of said injection nozzle into said interior portion of said French fry.

57. The condiment dispenser of Claim 49, wherein:
said injection nozzle is adapted to pierce an exterior surface of said French fry and to allow a portion of said injection nozzle to extend into said interior portion of said French fry; and
a maximum width of said portion of said injection that extends into said interior portion of said French fry is less than 0.2 inches.

58. The condiment dispenser of Claim 57, wherein a maximum width of said portion of said injection nozzle that extends into said interior portion of said French fry is less than 0.1 inches.

59. The condiment dispenser of Claim 49, wherein said condiment is ketchup.

60. The condiment dispenser of Claim 49, wherein said condiment is cheese sauce.

61. The condiment dispenser of Claim 49, wherein said condiment dispenser is configured for pre-heating said condiment before said condiment is transferred from said interior portion of said housing into said interior portion of said French fry.

62. The condiment dispenser of Claim 49, wherein said injection nozzle is adapted to facilitate the injection of a condiment into an interior portion of said French fry without leaving a significant amount of condiment on an exterior surface of said French fry.

63. The condiment dispenser of Claim 49, wherein:
said injection nozzle is a first injection nozzle; and
said condiment dispenser further comprises a second injection nozzle, said second injection nozzle being adapted to facilitate the transfer of condiment from said interior portion of said housing into said interior portion of said French fry.

64. The condiment dispenser of Claim 63, wherein:
said first injection nozzle is adapted to pierce said French fry a first time to facilitate a first transfer of condiment from said interior portion of said housing to said interior portion of said French fry; and
said second injection nozzle is adapted to pierce said French fry a second time to facilitate a second transfer of condiment from said interior portion of said housing to said interior portion of said French fry.

65. The condiment dispenser of Claim 64, wherein said condiment dispenser is configured so that said first and second transfers of condiment occur at substantially the same time.

66. The condiment dispenser of Claim 65, wherein said condiment dispenser is configured so that said first and second transfers of condiment occur at different times.

67. The condiment dispenser of Claim 49, wherein said condiment dispenser is configured for injecting condiment into said French fry substantially immediately after said French fry has been cooked.

68. The condiment dispenser of Claim 67, wherein said condiment dispenser is configured for injecting condiment into said French fry substantially while said French fry is warm from being cooked.

69. The condiment dispenser of Claim 49, wherein said condiment dispenser is configured for injecting said condiment into said interior portion of said French fry until said French fry is at least 5% filled with said condiment.

70. The condiment dispenser of Claim 49, wherein said condiment dispenser is configured for injecting said condiment into said interior portion of said French fry until said French fry is at least 10% filled with said condiment.

71. The condiment dispenser of Claim 49, wherein said condiment dispenser is configured for injecting said condiment into said interior portion of said French fry until said French fry is at least 15% filled with said condiment.

72. The condiment dispenser of Claim 49, wherein said condiment dispenser is configured for injecting said condiment into said interior portion of said French fry until said French fry is at least 20% filled with said condiment.

73. The condiment dispenser of Claim 49, wherein said condiment dispenser is configured for transferring condiment from said interior portion of said housing into an interior portion of a French fry in a substantially automated manner.

74. A condiment dispenser comprising:
a housing defining an interior portion; and
an injection nozzle defining an interior passage, said injection nozzle being: (A) in liquid communication with said interior portion of said housing; (B) adapted to create a hole in an exterior surface of a food item; and (C) adapted to facilitate the transfer of condiment from said interior portion of said housing, through said hole, and into an interior portion of a food item after said injection nozzle creates said hole in said exterior surface of said food item.

75. The condiment dispenser of Claim 74, wherein a portion of said injection nozzle used to create said hole has a maximum width of less than 0.2 inches.

76. The condiment dispenser of Claim 74, wherein a portion of said injection nozzle used to create said hole has a maximum width of less than 0.1 inches.

77. The condiment dispenser of Claim 74, wherein said hole has a maximum width of less than 0.2 inches

78. The condiment dispenser of Claim 74, wherein said hole has a maximum width of less than 0.1 inches.

79. The condiment dispenser of Claim 74, wherein said hole has a maximum width of less than 0.05 inches.